man power in respect of poultry development.

(c) Yes. These schemes were reviewed by Planning Commission as a mid-term review during 1994-95.

(d) Planning Commission has observed that the schemes are running satisfactorily and the targets are achieved.

Cultivation and Export of Mushroom

284. DR. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the state of mushroom cultivation in India;

(b) the steps taken, if any, to disseminate information about the nutritious value of mushroom;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to promote the export of mushroom; and

(d) whether there are quarantine measures for detecting pathogens from mushroom and spawns of mushroom imported from abroad?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Commercial mushroom cultivation in India which started in 1960s has made significant advances during the last five years. In addition to the farms set up for production of fresh mushrooms for domestic markets, a large number of hi-tech export oriented units have been set up all over the country for production of fresh/processed mushroom products for export markets. On a rough estimate the total production of fresh mushrooms during the year is likely to tough 30,000 metric tonnes. While white button mushroom dominates the scene, other mushrooms like Oyster and Paddy Straw mushrooms are also being cultivated particularly in Southern and Eastern India.

(b) Information about nutritious value of mushroom constitute an important part of the curricullum for all the training courses as well as the extension and technical publications of National Centre for Mushroom Research and Training. Solan and other research centres under the All India Coordinated Research Projects on Mushroom of ICAR. The State Governments are also conducting training programmes on popularisation of mushrooms as an important source of vegetable protein.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

Demand and Production of Chemicals & Fertilizers

285. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total demand of chemicals and fertilizers in the country particularly in the State of Punjab during the last three years;

(b) the total production of chemicals and fertilizers in the country during this period;

(c) the details of import of fertilizers during this period; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to increase the production of fertilizers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA:) (a) to (c) The demand of chemical fertilisers in the country including Punjab and their production and imports during last three years are given in the Annexure. *[See appendix 179, Annexure 8]*

(d) Following are the steps taken to increase the production of fertilisers:

(i) The domestic urea industry is supported through the Retention price-cum-subsidy scheme.

(ii) Assistance is provided to the fertiliser industry for securing linkages of feedstock, fuel and rail movement.

(iii) Liquid petroleum products used as feedstock and fuel in fertiliser